



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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Date: September 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE HELP REUNITE LOCAL MOM WITH ABDUCTED CHILD

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Detectives working as part of the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force and members of the Tempe Police Department were able to help locate a two-and-a-half year old child that had been abducted by her father.

Ellis Templar, 26, is facing charges of kidnapping and custodial interference in connection with the disappearance of his daughter, Braelyn. The child was reported missing July 15th after Templar failed to return Braelyn to her mother after a weekend visit. Templar and the child's mother, Lauri Moody, both resided in Tempe.

After receiving information about the child's abduction from the Tempe Police Department, DPS investigators working with the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force tracked Templar to Florida. Working with members of the U.S. Marshal's Office in that state, Templar was placed under surveillance at his job. He was observed picking up the child at a babysitter's home. Officers arrested him as he parked his car to meet his boss for dinner.

It was a difficult case because Templar had used several aliases and had relocated twice in two different states.

"This is just one example of the incredible work done by the U.S. Marshal's Office Fugitive Task Force. DPS is proud to play a role on this task force, especially in cases like this when a child can be reunited with her mother. The criminal justice system will deal with the father appropriately," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.